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AEIS English

Lesson 1 — Diagnostic & Tenses Overview

The present tense family · cloze · editing

Secondary 1 · Student

A comprehensive first lesson on the present-time tense family, stative vs dynamic verbs, and since vs for — with diagnostic, cloze and editing practice pitched to the AEIS Secondary 1 paper.

90-minute lesson · Notes + Worksheet + Homework

Aligned to MOE AEIS (Secondary) · Part 2 language use

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START HERE

How to use this booklet

Notes, worksheet and homework for one 90-minute lesson

What is inside

- **Section A — Diagnostic.** A short test you do first, before any teaching, so you can see what you already know.
- **Section B — Notes.** Clear rules, tables and examples for the four present tenses, stative verbs, and since / for.
- **Section C — Worksheet.** Six exercises that build from single sentences to editing a whole passage.
- **Section D — Cloze.** Three gapped passages, including one in the exact AEIS multiple-choice style.
- **Section E — Homework.** AEIS-style grammar, cloze, editing and a short writing task.

How the AEIS paper tests this

In the AEIS Secondary paper, verb tenses appear in the **comprehension cloze** (choose the word that fits the blank), the **grammar** multiple-choice questions, and the **editing** task. Your biggest clue is the **signal words** around the gap — *every day, now, since, for, already, yet*. Underline them first, then choose the tense.

Study tip

Do Section A without looking at the notes. Mark it after you finish the lesson to see how much you have improved.

SECTION A · WARM DIAGNOSTIC

Diagnostic test

24 items · do this BEFORE the notes

Part 1 — Choose the correct present tense

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets. (8 marks)

1. She _____ (walk) to school every morning.
2. Listen! The baby _____ (cry) in the next room.
3. Water _____ (boil) at 100 degrees Celsius.
4. I _____ (know) Priya since we were in Primary 1.
5. Look — it _____ (rain) again, so we cannot go out.
6. Ravi _____ (finish) his homework already; he is free now.
7. They _____ (wait) for the bus for twenty minutes and it still has not come.
8. The sun _____ (rise) in the east.

Part 2 — Stative or dynamic?

If the sentence is correct, write a tick. If it is wrong, rewrite it correctly. (5 marks)

9. I am wanting a glass of water.

10. She is reading a novel at the moment.

11. This soup is tasting delicious.

12. We are learning about tenses today.

13. He is owning three bicycles.

Part 3 — since or for

Fill each blank with since or for. (5 marks)

14. We have lived in Singapore _____ 2018.
15. She has been studying _____ three hours.
16. They have known each other _____ they were children.
17. I have not seen him _____ a long time.
18. The shop has been closed _____ last Monday.

Part 4 — Editing

Each line has ONE error. Underline it and write the correction in the box. (6 marks)

# Line (one error each)	Correction
19. My family and I has lived in this town for five years.	
20. Every Saturday, my father take us to the market.	
21. Right now, my mother is cook a big lunch.	
22. I have finish all my revision for the test.	
23. My sister want to become a doctor one day.	
24. We have been friends since a long time.	

SECTION B · NOTES

Tenses: the present family

Form · use · signal words

English has four tenses for present time. AEIS cloze and editing questions test whether you can pick the right one from the signal words in the sentence. For each tense, learn the **form**, the main **use**, and its **signal words**.

Tense	Form	Main use	Signal words
Present Simple	base verb (+ s)	habits, facts, timetables	every day, always, usually, never
Present Continuous	am/is/are + -ing	happening now; temporary; these days	now, at the moment, currently, today
Present Perfect	have/has + past participle	past action linked to now; experience; unfinished time	already, yet, just, ever, since, for
Present Perfect Continuous	have/has + been + -ing	action going on up to now; how long	for, since, all day, how long, lately

1. Present Simple

- **Form:** I / you / we / they **play**; he / she / it **plays**.
- **Use:** habits (I *read* every night), general truths (Ice *melts* in the sun), timetables (The train *leaves* at 6 a.m.).
- **Watch the -s:** he go → he **goes**; she study → she **studies**.

2. Present Continuous

- **Form:** am / is / are + verb-**ing** (I *am eating*, she *is running*).
- **Use:** happening now (She *is texting*), temporary / these days (I *am staying* with my aunt this week), a fixed plan (We *are visiting* the museum tomorrow).
- **Spelling:** run → running, write → writing, lie → lying.

3. Present Perfect

- **Form:** have / has + past participle (I *have eaten*, he *has gone*).
- **Use:** past action with a result now (I *have lost* my keys), experience (She *has visited* Japan), unfinished time (We *have done* a lot this week).
- **Trap:** finished-time words take the past simple, not the present perfect — I *saw* him yesterday (not have seen).

4. Present Perfect Continuous

- **Form:** have / has + been + verb-**ing** (I *have been reading*).
- **Use:** an action that started earlier and is still going on, stressing **how long** (They *have been waiting* for an hour).
- **Clue:** often answers *How long...?* and pairs with **for** / **since**.

Stative vs dynamic verbs

Dynamic verbs describe actions (run, eat, build) and **can** be used in continuous tenses. **Stative** verbs describe states — thoughts, feelings, senses and possession — and are normally **not** used in the continuous.

Group	Common stative verbs
Thinking / opinion	know, believe, understand, remember, mean, agree
Feelings	like, love, hate, want, prefer, need
Senses / seeming	see, hear, smell, taste, seem, appear

Group	Common stative verbs
Possession / relation	have, own, belong, contain, cost

Say **I know the answer** (not I am knowing). Say **She wants to leave** (not She is wanting).

A few verbs change meaning

Verb	Stative (state)	Dynamic (action)
have	I <i>have</i> a car (own)	I <i>am having</i> lunch (eat)
think	I <i>think</i> it is fair (opinion)	I <i>am thinking</i> about it (process)
see	I <i>see</i> what you mean	I <i>am seeing</i> the doctor tomorrow (meet)
taste	The soup <i>tastes</i> salty	The chef <i>is tasting</i> the soup

since vs for

Use **since** and **for** to say how long a situation has lasted. They almost always go with the present perfect or present perfect continuous.

since + a POINT in time (when it started)	for + a LENGTH of time (how long)
since 2019, since Monday, since 8 o'clock	for three years, for two hours, for a week
since last week, since I was six	for a long time, for ages, for ten minutes

Editing trap: *for a long time* is correct; *since a long time* is wrong.

SECTION C · GUIDED PRACTICE

Worksheet

Six exercises, sentence to passage

Exercise 1 — Verb-form drill

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets. Look for the signal words.

1. Every morning, the paper boy _____ (deliver) the newspapers.
2. Be quiet! The class _____ (take) a test now.
3. I _____ (live) in Tampines since 2019.
4. Look at the sky — the clouds _____ (grow) darker.
5. My grandmother _____ (cook) for the whole family every Sunday.
6. They _____ (paint) the fence all afternoon; that is why they look tired.
7. She _____ (already / finish) her science project.
8. Ravi usually _____ (walk) his dog before dinner.
9. We _____ (wait) here for an hour and the train has not arrived.
10. Water _____ (freeze) when the temperature falls below zero.

Exercise 2 — Present Simple vs Present Continuous

Choose the correct form from the brackets and write it in the blank.

1. My father _____ (reads / is reading) the newspaper right now.
2. The earth _____ (goes / is going) round the sun.
3. We _____ (have / are having) dinner at seven o'clock every evening.
4. Listen! Someone _____ (knocks / is knocking) at the door.
5. Sara _____ (studies / is studying) at the library this week because it is quiet.
6. The bus _____ (leaves / is leaving) at 6.30 every morning.
7. I _____ (do not / am not doing) understand this question.
8. Look — the cat _____ (chases / is chasing) a butterfly.

Exercise 3 — Stative or dynamic?

If the sentence is correct, write a tick. If it is wrong, rewrite it correctly.

1. I am believing you.

2. He is fixing his bicycle now.

3. This cake is smelling wonderful.

4. She is wanting to go home.

5. We are watching a film at the moment.

6. They are owning a large house.

7. The children are playing in the garden.

8. I am knowing the answer to that question.

Exercise 4 — since or for

Fill each blank with *since* or *for*.

1. My uncle has driven a taxi _____ ten years.
2. We have not eaten anything _____ breakfast.
3. The baby has been asleep _____ two hours.
4. I have been sitting here _____ the lesson started.
5. They have been best friends _____ many years.
6. It has been raining _____ nine o'clock this morning.
7. She has played the violin _____ she was five.
8. We have waited at this stop _____ a quarter of an hour.
9. Nobody has used this room _____ last term.
10. My grandfather has kept that watch _____ a very long time.

Exercise 5 — Present Perfect vs Present Perfect Continuous

Write the correct form of the verb in brackets. Ask: *does it count a result, or stress how long?*

1. I _____ (read) this book three times; I love it.
2. She _____ (read) for two hours; she is still on the sofa.
3. They _____ (paint) the whole house; it looks brand new.
4. He _____ (wait) at the clinic since noon.
5. We _____ (visit) that museum twice this year.
6. My hands are dirty because I _____ (work) in the garden.
7. Priya _____ (lose) her umbrella again, so she is getting wet.
8. It _____ (rain) all day; the field is completely flooded.

Exercise 6 — Editing (Getting ready for Sports Day)

Each numbered line has **ONE** error. Underline it and write the correct word in the box.

# Line (one error each)	Correction
1. My name is Wei Ming and I studies at Riverside Secondary School.	
2. Every year, our school hold a big Sports Day in August.	
3. This week, every class are practising for its race.	

# Line (one error each)	Correction
4. My friend Deepa run in the 100-metre race every year.	
5. At the moment, she train with the athletics team after school.	
6. She has practise her starts many times already.	
7. Our teacher, Mr Tan, have been coaching the team since April.	
8. He say that hard work always pays off.	
9. I have been help the team by timing their runs.	
10. I hopes that our class will win the trophy this year.	

SECTION D · CLOZE

Cloze passages

Three passages with tense gaps

Cloze 1 — A busy classroom

Write the correct form of each verb in brackets. (8 gaps)

It is nine o'clock, and Mrs Rahim's students (1) _____ (start) their English lesson. Normally, the classroom (2) _____ (be) quiet, but today the children (3) _____ (look) excited. For the whole week, they (4) _____ (prepare) a class play, and they (5) _____ (not / finish) painting the backdrop yet. Right now, Ken (6) _____ (paint) a large tree. He (7) _____ (work) on it since the bell rang, and his shirt is covered in green. 'I (8) _____ (need) more paint!' he says with a laugh.

Cloze 2 — The giant panda

Write the correct form of each verb in brackets. (8 gaps)

The giant panda (1) _____ (be) one of the world's best-loved animals. It (2) _____ (live) in the bamboo forests of China. Unlike most bears, the panda (3) _____ (not / eat) meat; it (4) _____ (depend) almost entirely on bamboo. A wild panda (5) _____ (spend) up to twelve hours a day eating. In recent years, scientists (6) _____ (study) pandas closely, and their patient work (7) _____ (help) the species to recover. Today, the number of wild pandas (8) _____ (rise) slowly but steadily.

Cloze 3 — Learning to cook (AEIS multiple-choice cloze)

Choose the option that best fits each blank. This is the AEIS Part 2 cloze format. (10 gaps)

My grandmother is the best cook I know, and these days she (1) _____ me how to prepare our family dishes. Every weekend, I (2) _____ to her flat to help in the kitchen. We (3) _____ together since January, and I (4) _____ already learnt to make three curries. This afternoon, we (5) _____ a special chicken rice for my uncle's birthday. While the rice cooks, my grandmother (6) _____ me a secret: she always adds a slice of ginger. 'A good cook (7) _____ patient,' she often says. My hands (8) _____ of garlic now because I (9) _____ chopping for an hour. I (10) _____ that these lessons are the best gift she could give me.

- (1) (A) teaches (B) has taught (C) taught (D) is teaching
- (2) (A) go (B) am going (C) have gone (D) went
- (3) (A) cook (B) are cooking (C) have been cooking (D) cooked
- (4) (A) have (B) has (C) am (D) had
- (5) (A) make (B) are making (C) have made (D) made
- (6) (A) tells (B) is telling (C) has told (D) told
- (7) (A) is (B) are (C) is being (D) has been
- (8) (A) smell (B) are smelling (C) have smelt (D) smelled
- (9) (A) am (B) have been (C) was (D) had been
- (10) (A) am knowing (B) have known (C) knew (D) know

SECTION E · HOMEWORK

Homework

AEIS-style grammar, cloze, editing and writing

Homework 1 — Grammar (AEIS multiple-choice)

Choose the best option (A-D) for each sentence. Circle your answer.

1. My sister _____ the piano every day after school.
(A) play (B) plays (C) is playing (D) has played
2. Quiet, please! The principal _____ an announcement now.
(A) makes (B) made (C) is making (D) has made
3. We _____ in this flat since my brother was born.
(A) have lived (B) live (C) are living (D) lived
4. Ravi _____ his lunch at the moment, so he cannot come to the phone.
(A) eats (B) is eating (C) has eaten (D) ate
5. The moon _____ round the earth.
(A) go (B) goes (C) is going (D) has gone
6. I _____ my keys, so I cannot open the door.
(A) lose (B) am losing (C) lost (D) have lost
7. She _____ for the test since this morning.
(A) studies (B) is studying (C) has been studying (D) studied
8. My grandparents _____ in Kuala Lumpur for over thirty years.
(A) live (B) have lived (C) are living (D) has lived
9. He _____ exactly what I mean.
(A) is understanding (B) understands (C) understand (D) is understand
10. The workers _____ the road all week; it is still not finished.
(A) repair (B) are repairing (C) have been repairing (D) repairs

Homework 2 — Comprehension cloze (A morning at the hawker centre)

Choose the option that best fits each blank. (10 gaps)

Every Sunday, my family and I (1) _____ breakfast at our favourite hawker centre. We (2) _____ there since I was a little boy. The moment we arrive, my father (3) _____ straight to the noodle stall, which (4) _____ the best laksa in the neighbourhood. This morning, the stall (5) _____ more crowded than usual because a food blogger (6) _____ about it last week. While we (7) _____ for a table, I (8) _____ the cooks at work. They (9) _____ here for hours already, yet they still move quickly and cheerfully. I (10) _____ that nothing beats a hot bowl of laksa on a lazy Sunday.

- (1) (A) have (B) are having (C) has (D) had
- (2) (A) go (B) are going (C) have been going (D) went
- (3) (A) goes (B) is going (C) has gone (D) go
- (4) (A) serve (B) serves (C) is serving (D) served
- (5) (A) grows (B) is growing (C) has grown (D) grew
- (6) (A) writes (B) is writing (C) has written (D) wrote
- (7) (A) wait (B) are waiting (C) have waited (D) waited

- (8) (A) watch (B) am watching (C) have watched (D) watched
 (9) (A) work (B) are working (C) have been working (D) worked
 (10) (A) am thinking (B) think (C) have thought (D) thought

Homework 3 — Editing (My new hobby)

Each numbered line has ONE error. Underline it and write the correct word in the box.

# Line (one error each)	Correction
1. My brother and I has joined a swimming class this year.	
2. We goes to the pool every Saturday morning.	
3. Our coach, Mr Lee, teach us a new skill each week.	
4. At the moment, I am learn how to float on my back.	
5. I have want to swim well since I was young.	
6. My brother already know how to swim quite fast.	
7. He have been practising his diving for a month.	
8. Right now, he is practise near the deep end.	
9. We have been friends with the other swimmers since a long time.	
10. I hopes to join the school swimming team next year.	

Homework 4 — Put it together

Write FIVE sentences about your own week. Use each item once and underline the verb(s):

- one Present Simple sentence (a habit or fact),
- one Present Continuous sentence (something happening now or these days),
- one Present Perfect sentence (something you have done, with a result now),
- one Present Perfect Continuous sentence (how long you have been doing something),
- one sentence that uses since or for correctly.
